

JEH O & C # 26

Date: 2/16/75

Caption on Folder or File: (Print)

Aides Initial: WRS

Altop, Joseph

Cabinet 6 Drawer 1

Folder X File \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)

First Communication Dated 3/27/57

Last Communication Dated 4/23/59

Approximate Pages 72

Derogatory Information: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)

Describe Category; i.e. investigative, congressional, prominent persons, administrative, information, police, personnel, information from other agency, (use miscellaneous category as little as possible): Prominent person - Information from:

Ticklers Only X Originals Only X Both X

Describe General Content of File or Folder: (use separate page if necessary)

Copies of memoranda between Hoover and CIA and memoranda recording Hoover's conversations with Sherman Adams at the White House and Attorney Generals Brownell and Rogers regarding Altop's admission to CIA that he was a homosexual and had been compromised in Moscow in 1957 by Soviet police. TOP SECRET

In 1955, Eisenhower Administration requested FBI investigation of the Altop's (Stewart of Joseph) and column reporter on Soviet satellite capabilities - concerns over possible leak from NSC. [Joseph Altop with Alan Hall, "I've Seen the Best of It" - Memories (New York: Norton, 1992), pp 391-393.]  
Unknown to Joseph Altop, he had been subject of earlier only later FBI investigations, not all concerning "leaks."

~~SECRET~~

~~EYES ONLY~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Washington 25, D. C.

Office of the Director

March 27, 1957

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Joseph Alsop

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I attach a memorandum with regard to subject which is self explanatory.

b1, b3 The information on which the attached memorandum is based was passed to me [redacted] Subject specifically requested that the information be brought to your attention and to mine, and further requested that it be kept out of the general files and placed in a special file. I am also communicating the substance of this memorandum to the State Department at the highest level. It has otherwise received no dissemination except to the person through whom this letter is reaching you.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Allen Dulles

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Encl.

COPY

~~SECRET~~

P. 7

~~SECRET~~

~~EYES ONLY~~

27 March 1957

Subject admits that since youth he has been a congenital homosexual; sought medical advice and was told that there was nothing to be done about it.

During his recent visit to the Soviet Union and while in Moscow, subject states that he was exposed to pointed homosexual overtures and in the end committed the incredible folly of walking into the trap. This trap, subject stated, was a carefully prepared, professional KGB frame up. After the trap was sprung, subject states that on several occasions, in Moscow and Leningrad, he was subject to long political conversations largely based on his writings. Allusions were made to Lubyanka and the fact that homosexuality was a crime. According to subject no questions were asked which were of a classified nature but he apparently feared that this was merely a warming up exercise.

b1, b3 [redacted] subject reports that he signed nothing for the KGB interlocutors despite their efforts in that direction.

Subject states that as a safeguard against KGB recurrence he wrote out a long account of what had transpired [redacted]

[redacted] advised subject to get out of the USSR. (S)

White rooms made efforts were apparently made to delay subject's departure, when the Embassy ordered the tickets for him, he was allowed to leave via Prague with a day's delay and was not molested en route to Paris and London or since then and prior to the date of this information, which is March 17, 1957. (The incidents in the USSR presumably took place sometime around the latter half of February 1957.)

COPY

ENCLOSURE  
~~SECRET~~

Messrs. Tolson, Boardman, Belmont

March 28, 1957

of the Alsops, without, of course, in any way disclosing the contents of the attached communication. I have asked Mr. Tolson to initiate these actions.

The Attorney General indicated that as soon as I had the information available, he would set up a conference with Mr. Allen Dulles and myself, at which the three of us could then discuss what further action could be taken.

Mr. Allen Dulles advised the Attorney General that the contents of the attached have only been disclosed to the Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles; the Director of CIA, Mr. Allen Dulles; Mr. Frank Wisner, an official of CIA; the Attorney General; and myself. The Attorney General inquired of Mr. Allen Dulles as to whether the matter shouldn't be reported to the President and Mr. Allen Dulles said that it had been the thinking of Mr. John Foster Dulles that it should not be brought to the President's attention at this time. I told the Attorney General that I thought it should be brought to the President's attention because if Joseph Alsop returned to Washington, it was entirely possible that he might establish some White House connections and, therefore, the President should be informed of this recent information upon Joseph Alsop.

Please have the necessary memorandums for which I have asked, [redacted] ready for me at the earliest possible moment. (S)

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

March 28, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BOARDMAN  
MR. BELMONT

This morning upon the return of the Attorney General from the meeting of the National Security Council at the White House, he handed to me the attached communication, addressed to me and signed by Mr. Allen Dulles. As you will note, this information was received by Mr. Allen Dulles. It deals with the activities of Joseph Alsop, and according to Mr. Dulles, Alsop specifically requested that the information contained in the enclosures to his communication be brought to Mr. Dulles' attention and to mine and further requested that it be kept out of the general files and be placed in a special file.

You will note from the enclosure that Mr. Joseph Alsop admits that he has been a congenital homosexual since youth and has sought medical advice without any constructive results. He further advises that on his recent visit to the Soviet Union, he walked into a trap set by the KGB and subsequently was subjected to long interrogation by the KGB.

Also, [redacted] the American Embassy in Moscow. [redacted] according to Alsop, advised him to leave Russia. The memorandum indicates, and the Attorney General likewise confirmed it, that Joseph Alsop is now in Paris. He is undecided whether to return to the United States. As indicated, the instances of positive homosexuality while in Moscow in which Alsop was compromised by the KGB occurred within the last month.

I told the Attorney General I would first like to have prepared a summary of all that is in our files upon both the Alsops - Joseph and Stewart. I also advised the Attorney General that I would seek [redacted] any information which they might have in their files upon either

Army (S)  
JEH:TLC  
(6)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JOSEPH WRIGHT ALSOP, JR.  
STEWART ALSOP

In 1941, Kintner and Joseph Alsop dissolved their journalistic relationship and both joined the service. Joseph Alsop, who was commissioned in the Navy, was sent to India with the intelligence service as an assistant naval observer. While in India, Alsop became acquainted with and devoted to General Chennault, and immediately resigned his Navy commission and became Chennault's press representative with the American Volunteer Group in China. He was later captured by the Japanese at Hong Kong and in June, 1942, was returned to the United States on exchange.

Joseph Alsop immediately returned to China as chief of a lend-lease mission and then became a captain in the 14th Air Force and a member of the staff of General Chennault, 1943-1945.

Since the end of World War II, Joseph Alsop has coauthored with his brother, Stewart Alsop, a column entitled "Matter of Fact," which column has been syndicated through the "New York Herald Tribune" syndicate since 1945. Joseph and Stewart Alsop have been contributors to the "Saturday Evening Post," "Life," and the "Atlantic Monthly." Although they travel extensively, they list as their business address 2720 Dunbarton Avenue, Washington 7, D. C.

The column "Matter of Fact" deals with all phases of the Washington scene, both domestic and international, and has frequently been critical of the FBI and the efforts being made by the FBI in the discharge of its responsibilities.

#### Stewart Johnston Oliver Alsop

Stewart Johnston Oliver Alsop was born in New York, New York, on May 17, 1914, and after graduating from Groton attended Yale University, receiving his A.B. degree in 1936. Stewart Alsop married a citizen of England during the war years and is the father of four children. Stewart began his journalistic career as editor of Doubleday Doran in New York City and after World War II formed the afore-mentioned partnership with his brother, Joseph. He enlisted in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, British Army, 1942, and held the rank of captain in 1944. He transferred to the American Army as a parachutist with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and parachuted into France shortly

- 2 -  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 29, 1957

JOSEPH WRIGHT ALSOP, JR.  
STEWART ALSOP

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

#### BACKGROUND

##### Joseph Wright Alsop, Jr.

Joseph Wright Alsop, Jr., was born at Avon, Connecticut, on October 11, 1910. He attended Groton School at Groton, Massachusetts, from 1923 to 1928 and later entered Harvard University, receiving his A.B. degree in 1932. Joseph Alsop is unmarried.

Although nothing derogatory was developed during the course of an applicant-type investigation for the Office for Emergency Management in 1943, it was determined that both Joseph and his brother, Stewart, are cousins of Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Joseph Alsop has been described by editors of the "Saturday Evening Post" as an individual who, when in his early thirties, had seen more of life and more of the world than his fellow Groton and Harvard graduates usually see in generations. He was described as scornfully rejecting the more conventional careers to take up journalism.

The afore-mentioned investigation revealed that Alsop joined the "New York Herald Tribune" as a cub reporter upon leaving Harvard, a position which was secured for him through family ties and influential friends.

In the year immediately preceding World War II, Joseph Alsop and Robert Kintner wrote a Washington news column entitled "The Capital Parade," which was syndicated in about ninety newspapers. In 1939, Joseph Alsop and Kintner wrote a book entitled "Men Around the President," which book purports to be an inside story of the growth of the brain trust in the New Deal.

A glorified pamphlet entitled "American White Paper," also written by Joseph Alsop and Kintner, purported to give an inside story of our foreign policies prior to our entry into the war.

*By Special Agent  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JAN 3 1989  
CLASSIFIED BY 1565 SD/MLL  
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECENT CONTACT WITH SOVIETS 7(a)4

According to other confidential sources, who have furnished reliable information in the past, Joseph Alsop, during December, 1956, also attempted to arrange travel to Hungary, Iran, Egypt, and Algeria. <sup>2, 4</sup>

- 4 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Following the war, Stewart and one Lieutenant Thomas Braden wrote a book entitled "Sub Rosa." This book deals with the operations of OSS and in it Stewart states that he was a paratrooper with that organization.

A confidential informant, formerly employed in the Foreign Service of the Department of State, confessed to engaging in homosexual activities and resigned. This informant furnished derogatory information regarding other Department of State employees which has been found to be reliable. He related on July 30, 1954, that while assigned to Germany he was introduced to [redacted] b6 b7C the news corps and pt.

On May 13, 1954, a confidential source who is in a position to furnish reliable information advised that a member of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Washington, D. C., [redacted] allegedly a homosexual [redacted] had stated that the Alsop brothers were homosexuals. Allegedly, [redacted] advised that he personally observed Arthur Vandenberg, Jr., in bed with one of the Alsops, and that [redacted] the Alsops, Vandenberg and another individual were members of a group of homosexuals. On May 18, 1954, the member of the [redacted] interviewed and advised that he had learned that one [redacted] and suggests [redacted] the O'D source [redacted] might be able to furnish information regarding an allegation that the Alsops were "queer." The member of the MPD advised that he had heard an unverified rumor that Vandenberg and one of the Alsops had been involved in some kind of trouble while on a

13.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JOSEPH BRIANT ALSOP, JR.  
STEWART ALSOP

INVESTIGATION OF UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION  
OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Joseph and Stewart Alsop publish a syndicated column entitled "Matter of Fact," which appears in the "Washington Post and Times Herald" and other newspapers. Since 1950, the FBI, at the request of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the Department of Justice, has conducted seven investigations involving the Alsops on the basis of unauthorized classified information appearing in their column. Briefly these instances are as follows.

On October 13, 1950, their article entitled "The Russian's Growing Stockpile" contained information allegedly taken from classified annual reports of the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee dated January 1, 1950, and July 4, 1950.

On December 22, 1950, the Alsops' column referred to a top secret document of the National Security Council (NSC), commonly identified as NSC-68. This document contained data regarding Soviet atomic production figures.

Their column of December 31, 1950, entitled "How Red A-Blast Was Detected" allegedly contained classified information from various Government documents.

The Alsops' column on May 5, 1952, published information classified as restricted data by the AEC, pertaining to the approximate date that a hydrogen bomb would be exploded as well as data concerning the power of this bomb.

On June 18, 1952, they published another article containing information classified as restricted data by the AEC, pertaining to the explosion of a hydrogen bomb.

Stewart Alsop contacted the AEC on June 4, 1953, and requested clearance for the publication of an article pertaining to a film depicting the 1952 Soviet thermonuclear test, which was classified top secret. Clearance was refused until Alsop agreed to delete certain portions of this article.

Joseph Alsop, in a column published September 19, 1955, entitled "The Killian Report," referred to a top secret study pertaining to this country's defense potentialities. However, our investigation determined that this column did not contain any classified information.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JOSEPH BRIANT ALSOP, JR.  
STEWART ALSOP

Our investigation into the above-mentioned matters failed to identify in each instance the Alsops' source of information. It was determined that the classified information published by them had been given wide-spread dissemination throughout the Government, in some cases to thousands of individuals in several departments and agencies. As a result, our investigations were not productive. In each case, the Department of Justice advised that further investigation was not warranted. In connection with these investigations, the Alsops were interviewed on February 13, 1951. They refused to reveal their sources and said that they had not seen nor had access to any confidential papers which enabled them to write the articles. They declined to comment as to whether they had been furnished the necessary data by any United States official. On March 15, 1951, Stewart Alsop was reinterviewed and again declined to reveal his sources of information.

MISCELLANEOUS

According to the report of hearings before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee concerning the Institute of Pacific Relations, on October 17, 1951, former Vice President Henry A. Wallace testified before the Subcommittee. With reference to a trip to China in early 1944, Wallace testified that Joseph Alsop had been designated by General Claire Chennault to accompany him and John Carter Vincent, State Department. On October 18, 1951, Joseph Alsop appeared before the Subcommittee and attacked testimony previously given by Louis Budenz, self-admitted former Communist Party (CP) member, to the effect that the Wallace mission to China carried out a communist objective; that Vincent guided Wallace toward a communist objective; and that Vincent was a member of the CP at the time of the trip to China. Alsop stated that in Budenz's testimony concerning Wallace and Vincent, he, Budenz, was guilty of gross distortion and deception.

On April 9, 1954, information was received that Herbert Marks, Washington, D. C., attorney representing Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, atomic scientist whose security clearance was then under consideration, had been contacted by Stewart Alsop. Stewart indicated that he and his brother, Joseph Alsop, were anxious to cooperate in clearing news releases favorable to Dr. Oppenheimer. reportedly, on April 9, 1954, Dr. Oppenheimer discussed the problem of a press release with Joseph Alsop who had agreed that he would write nothing over the objection of Dr. Oppenheimer.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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JOSEPH WRIGHT ALSOP, JR.  
STEWART ALSOP

three persons in Washington, D. C., including columnist Joseph Alsop. Matusow also testified that Albert E. Kahn, partner in the publishing firm handling his book, had mailed a mimeographed copy of the book to columnist Stewart Alsop. Matusow said this was not his idea and he did not know who suggested it.

A report published May 9, 1955, by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee concerning "Strategy and Tactics of World Communism-The Significance of the Matusow Case," reflected an item published in the "Daily Worker," March 11, 1955. This item, entitled "Big Lies, Little Lies, and the Case of Harvey Matusow," states that the most outspoken criticism of the Justice Department in the Matusow case comes from Stewart Alsop, who himself did much to expose the "informant system."

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JOSEPH WRIGHT ALSOP, JR.  
STEWART ALSOP

On July 18, 1954, Joseph Alsop was an overnight guest at the Oppenheimer residence at Princeton, New Jersey.

The "Washington City News Service" of December 30, 1954, stated that columnists Joseph and Stewart Alsop had charged that the AEC "dishonored and disgraced the high cause of American freedom," by denying security clearance to Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer. The Alsop brothers made this charge in their book entitled "We Accuse!" Furthermore, according to the news item, the Alsops charged that the J. C. "insecurity system is inherently repugnant in its present standards and procedures to every high tradition of the American past."

A "Petition to Uphold Justice," criticizing the use of "paid informers" in U. S. courts and specifically mentioning former Bureau informants Paul Crouch and Louis Budenz, was circulated during January, 1955. The petition carried the following statements made by Joseph and Stewart Alsop in the "New York Herald Tribune" of July 4, 1954:

".....Those of the informers and witnesses who mainly live by this new trade or importantly supplement their incomes by it, have a clear financial interest in being used as much as possible.....that happens when they have told all they genuinely know, but still want to maintain their income from the Justice Department."

In his broadcast of September 3, 1954, Walter Winchell said that Joseph Alsop had refused to reveal sources of information before a Senate committee in secret session and had been fully sustained by Senator Smith.

The "Washington City News Service" of February 22, 1955, carried an item regarding testimony given that day before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee by Harvey Matusow, who testified for the government in a number of cases involving members of the CP and who subsequently publicly recanted his testimony and wrote a book entitled "False Witness." During his testimony, Matusow was questioned about telephone calls made by him from his New York apartment during the previous spring. According to the article, Matusow stated he had called

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3:55 PM

April 1, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BOARDMAN  
MR. BELMONT

Mr. James Angleton, Chief, Counterintelligence, Central Intelligence Agency, called with reference to the letter which Allen Dulles had sent to me on March 27 involving a very delicate matter concerning Joseph Alsop. Mr. Angleton stated he had another communication and wondered whether I would have any objection to this being passed on to Special Agent Papich, our Liaison man. I told him this would be satisfactory. I also mentioned that I was having a summary prepared of material in our files on both the Alsops and also of any material on Joseph Alsop's tenure of service in the Armed Services as I understood he had served in two branches of the Service.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

JEH:EH (1)  
1 additional copy made

COPY

O+C 26, bsc 4

P. 7.

April 2, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BOARDMAN  
MR. BELMONT  
MR. NICHOLS

Following a conference which I had with the Attorney General this morning dealing with the McClellan Committee and racketeering investigations, I handed to the Attorney General a copy of the summary upon Joseph Wright Alsop, Jr., and Stewart Alsop. I also handed to the Attorney General the original letter and enclosure which were sent to me yesterday by Mr. Allen Dulles, the Director of CIA, and which furnish additional information upon Joseph Alsop's being compromised as a homosexual while visiting Russia. *Permanently*

I asked the Attorney General to return to me this original letter from Mr. Allen Dulles as soon as he had had an opportunity to read the same and he said that he would.

I told the Attorney General that we had not incorporated in the summary on Joseph and Stewart Alsop the fact that in 1951, when Mr. Dulles was Deputy Director of CIA, he rented a house on Dunbarton Avenue, Washington, D. C., and agreed to allow Joseph and Stewart Alsop to have an office on the first floor of his, Dulles', home. I told the Attorney General that this fact had been called to the attention of Mr. Matthew Connolly, then Secretary to the President, and I did not know what further action was taken upon it. The Attorney General was shocked to hear of this particular development.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

JEH:TLC  
(7)

O+C 26, Doc 5



11:03 AM

April 4, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BOARDMAN  
MR. BELMONT  
MR. NICHOLS

I called the Attorney General to advise him [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to interview Joseph W. [REDACTED]  
O'Alsup, Jr., and in checking into the identity of this individual.

I stated CIA was alerted to this by us yesterday afternoon and I also spoke to Allen Dulles today at the security meeting concerning this matter. The Attorney General was advised that we had received this information in 1952 when we learned [REDACTED]

The Attorney General expressed amazement over this development and commented that the Bureau's Agent in Paris should be able to do this. I indicated that of course we could do this [REDACTED]. I stated the information on [REDACTED] had been furnished to CIA and they were checking into the matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc-Mr. Holloman

JER:EH (7)

O+C-26, Doc 6

4:08 PM

April 8, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BOARDMAN  
MR. BELMONT  
MR. NICHOLS

I called Mr. James Angleton, Chief, Counterintelligence, Central Intelligence Agency with reference to the Joseph Alsop matter. He was advised that I had learned through our Liaison man that the [REDACTED] contemplated using to interview Alsop. [REDACTED] was a former Agent of this Bureau, and in checking our files on [REDACTED] I found that in 1952 we advised [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had been reported as being one of the same type as Alsop. Mr. Angleton was told that this information came to us from CIC of the Military District of Washington. I told Mr. Angleton that [REDACTED] and this information was furnished to [REDACTED] in September, 1952. Mr. Angleton expressed his appreciation for this information and stated he would check into it immediately.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc-Mr. Holloman

JER:EH (7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/26/84 BY SP7 CJC/HJP  
G.A. # 88-1826

O+C-26, Doc 7

SECRET

April 5, 1957

VIA LIAISON

Mr. Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Administration Building, Room 123  
2430 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Reference is made to your letter dated April 1, 1957, [redacted] an interview of Joseph Alsop.

I wish to confirm statements made to you and Mr. James Angleton of your Agency on April 4, 1957, by Mr. Sam J. Papich of this Bureau, namely, that I would appreciate receiving the complete results [redacted] of Alsop. As Mr. Papich indicated, I would like to receive any information coming to your attention concerning any future contacts Alsop might have with the Soviets, either abroad or within the United States.

I will continue to keep you informed of any significant information developed by this Bureau. As you know, the Bureau's Liaison representative has been maintaining close contact with Mr. Angleton of your Agency concerning this matter.

Sincerely yours,

SJP:bai

(5)

(1-add'l. copy made)

NOTE: Cover memo Roach to Belmont 4-5-57 by SJP:bai

Re: JOSEPH ALSOP

COPY

SECRET

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COPY  
SECRET  
EYES ONLY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

April 1, 1957

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Subject: JOSEPH ALSOP

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Referring further to my letter to you of 27 March 1957, and the enclosure in the above matter, I enclose herewith a photographic copy of a memorandum prepared by subject in Moscow on or about February 23, 1957. The original of this memorandum has just been received [redacted]. The contents of this memorandum are being made known to the State Department at a high level. [redacted] (S) 4/7/57

Information received [redacted] indicates that the developments mentioned in this memorandum occurred during the week of February 17-23. The "incident" apparently occurred on Monday, February 18, the trip to Leningrad took place on February 20-21, and subject left Moscow for Paris via Prague on February 24.

[redacted] in interview with subject abroad as we understand that he does not contemplate an early return to this country. [redacted] (S) 4/7/57

made by the KGB to reestablish contact with subject during his stay in Europe, and generally to take steps which will permit a proper evaluation of this matter from a security standpoint.

SECRET  
COPY

C O P Y

MEMORANDUM

This is the history of an act of very great folly, unpleasant in itself but not without interest for the light its casts upon our adversaries in the struggle for the world.

It must begin with a personal confession. I have been an incurable homosexual since boyhood. Very early, I sought medical advice, especially from Doctor Adolf Mayer at Johns Hopkins, but the doctors I consulted only confirmed my own diagnosis. It is a curious thing, but it is a fact, that the vast majority of homosexuals who have honestly faced the nature of their predicament, somehow end by accommodating themselves to it, shocking though this may seem. Most simply say, as I have said, "If I do no harm to anyone, if I am no trouble to anyone, I should not be too much troubled myself." I have always been deeply troubled, however, by one aspect of my predicament--by the concealment of the truth from my family and friends. Circumstances have now arisen which make further concealment impossible; and while those circumstances are disturbing and painful in the last degree, there is still a certain inner relief at being forced to tell the whole truth at last.

I am forced to tell the truth because I have been most successfully framed by what I judge to be the foreign espionage branch of the Soviet secret police. How it happened is, in essence, rather simple.

In the course of my visit to this country, I have been exposed to enough homosexual invitations to suggest, as one looks back, a rather continuous attempt to entrap. One of these occurred shortly after my return from Siberia, when I was walking home late one evening from the Metropole to the National Hotel; and a young soldier walking in the opposite direction abruptly stopped and stared in an unmistakably meaningful manner. There was still another a few nights later, when I dined at the Sovetskaya Hotel with the Bernard Cutlers and a pretended editor of the "Literary Gazette." Our Russian host, by a strange coin-

C O P Y

4-10-57  
HISDAW  
ORIGINAL DELIVERED TO  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT F.H.

ORIGINAL RETURNED  
BY DEPUTY A.G. ROGERS  
4-11-57

04C26, Doc 7 (10-3-10)...

COPY  
SECRET  
EYES ONLY

b1, b3

In case there are any matters which you would like to cover in the contemplated interrogation, [REDACTED]

I will keep you informed of any significant developments in this case and I request that you kindly coordinate with me any dissemination of this information outside of the Bureau, or other action which might bear upon the counter intelligence aspect of this case while subject remains abroad.

Sincerely yours,

(S) Allen W. Dulles

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

"I gave this to A.G. yesterday  
& he returned it to me this morning. H."

4/3/57

- 2 -

SECRET

COPY

aidenasy, had taken a table next to a group of quite obvious homosexuals--one of them even had plucked eyebrows and dyed hair, and as the evening wore on, the usual Russian post-vodka embraces merged into something considerably more startling. When I had to go to the men's room, the fellow with plucked eyebrows at once followed me and made a proposition. Had I known then what I know now, I should of course have been warned; since this kind of flamboyant display of homosexuality could only occur in the Soviet Union with the assurances of police protection.

Finally, again a few nights later, I was invited last Sunday by the Ed Stevens to a dinner they were giving for Chester Bowles. We had hardly taken our first vodkas when a supposed reporter for "Tass", an acquaintance of Stevens', came up to us and asked our whole party to join his table. He was accompanied by a younger friend, an athletic blonde, pleasant-faced, pleasant-mannered fellow. Instead of joining them, Ed asked them to join us, and in the ensuing rearrangement of the table, I found myself sitting next to the "Tass" reporter's friend. We had a common language in French--I now suppose that he was chosen for this purpose, since comfortable talk dispels caution--and we fell immediately into conversation.

The topic of the talk, which was both interesting and agreeable, was the state of the arts in the Soviet Union. As a professed teacher of literature at a school in Leningrad, he at first defended "socialist realism" with great energy. Then, blaming the single vodka he had drunk, he abruptly switched sides, proclaiming that Anna Akhmatova and Pasternak were the only living Russian poets worth reading, attacking the Communist party's dead hand on the arts, and in general talking in a very open and incautious way. I must, he said, talk to some of the Leningrad intellectuals; and we made a date to meet there.

I had already made reservations through Intourist to go to Leningrad, and I now believe that the original plan was to stage the frame-up there, merely establishing the first contact in Moscow. As will be seen, the course of events suggests that the new acquaintances I was soon to make were unprepared for the rapidity of my folly.

At any rate, as the evening wore on, the talk about literature merged into a veiled confession by Boris Nikolaevich, as he called himself, that he was a homosexual; and when I did not appear shocked, this in turn merged into an invitation. As arranged, I said good-bye to the Stevens a little later and went to his room, No. 219 in the Grand Hotel where we had been dining. Nothing outwardly suspicious occurred during the hour we passed there, and when I left, he invited me to come back at 4 p.m. the next day, when he would, he said, have finished his business in Moscow, "to say goodbye before his return to Leningrad". Looking back, I can hardly credit my own idiocy. But my time in Russia had been so interesting, the Russians as a people had seemed to me so friendly and so vital, the presence of the police had been so little apparent, that I had just about forgotten this was a police state. So I kept the appointment at 4 p.m. Monday, and of course, at the appropriate moment, the door burst open and a militia officer, the English speaking vice director of the hotel and another unidentified man entered the room.

Beyond asking my name, which I thought it foolish to try to conceal, they hardly bothered with me. When I refused to sign the "act" drawn up by the militia officer, on the ground that I could not read it, they did not even press me to do so. Shortly after they entered the room, a telephone call had been put in. And the "act" was hardly signed by the others, when there was a knock at the door and two men entered. These dismissed all the others, and asked me to stay behind.

The senior, who was plainly in command, was a man in his late forties or early fifties, moderately corpulent, of middle height.

my problem. When I said I did not care where we discussed it, he began a most curious political discussion, about Soviet-American relations, in which, in effect I was asked to explain my viewpoint at great length. In this discussion, the older man showed himself coolly unprejudiced, indeed apparently quite unaffected by the local propaganda, while the younger, who served as interpreter, either genuinely was or pretended to be shocked by my "lack of objectivity." The talk went on in this manner for nearly three hours, being interrupted from time to time by their assurances that "they only wanted to help me." At length, at 7:30 p.m., I said that I was dining at the Embassy in an hour's time, that I would be missed if I did not turn up, and that I had better telephone if they wished to continue our conversation. They replied that I was quite free to go, but that we three must meet again soon "to try to find a way out of your problem". A date was made to dine at the Praga Restaurant the next evening, and so we parted.

I had made up my mind--- as I now see, very foolishly--- that it was my duty to involve no one else in the consequences of my folly. My first intention--- it sounds melodramatic, but it really was my intention--- was to go through with dinner, return to my hotel, write out on account of the whole business, slip it under the door of the newspapermen living at the National Hotel, and then commit suicide. Through dinner, I considered this and other alternatives. I finally concluded, before I went to bed, that suicide was a cowardly alternative; at least at that moment, and that I ought to play the game out a bit further, to see where it would lead. I adopted the tentative plan, therefore, of pretending to be recruited by my two new friends, in order to get out of the country, and then, when I reached Paris, making a clean, public breast of the whole business, telling the story in detail to the whole world first as a warning and second as proof that I could not be blackmailed any longer. As I have said, I have always been troubled by the concealment that homosexuals must practice, and the fact that the course I meant to adopt would surely mean the end of my present career hardly weighed in the balance against the prospect

with a most striking face--- the skin olive-brown, the nose rather hooked, the eyes, deep-set in the rather plump cheeks, flashing sharply through the steel rimmed spectacles unless he was considering his next move, when he would half close his eyes and drum on the table. He wore a muskrat chapska and smoked the imitation-Turkish Russian cigarettes almost continuously. The junior must have been in his early thirties, was perhaps 5' 10", fattish, blondish, with a long nose and a loose-looking, rather Germanic face. Except that his suit was rather lighter blue than most Russians wear, there was nothing else to distinguish him.

They got down to business without any delay, saying I had of course committed a serious crime under the Russian code, that they did not want to make any trouble for me all the same---here the younger one ostentatiously telephoned the hotel director to command, as he explained, "absolute secrecy"---but that I must help them a little if they were going to help me. The police had done their work well, added the senior one, all but licking his lips and fingering the scarlet doseler which the militia officer had turned over to him. It contained the "act", some other papers and several small packets. From one of these he extracted a photograph to show me the efficiency of the police. As it happened, this photograph was a singularly brilliant fake---what it portrayed had not occurred---but this seemed to me fairly irrelevant in the circumstances so I did not argue about it.

Not knowing what course to take, I simply told my new friend at this first meeting what was in fact the truth---that in my situation, I had had to decide many years earlier what I would do if I found myself exposed to blackmail, that I had long ago decided I would much prefer any other course, however unpleasant, to paying blackmail, and that I might kill myself or end my writing career, but that I would never allow myself to be blackmailed in any way. The older man, who led the conversation, merely laughed comfortably, repeated that he wanted to help me, and suggested that we move to pleasanter surroundings.

of telling the honest truth and so ridding myself of the incubus of my folly. As I write these words, I think I shall still do so, although I have now promised to take Ambassador Bohlen's advice on this point.

Having taken these decisions, I presented myself at the Praga the next evening. A luxurious and enormous dinner had been prepared in a private room. I greatly disconcerted my two new friends by refusing anything to drink, on the ground that I had had a stomach upset during the previous night, and having a bad liver owing to hepatitis, had been forced to go on the wagon for a week. They pressed vodka on me again and again, but without success. The whole first part of dinner was taken up with another interminable political conversation of the sort that had already taken place. One topic, I remember, was Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey's desire to cut the military budget. They appeared to be singularly well informed about American politics and personalities, but they asked no questions going beyond the sort of thing printed daily in the newspapers. I had made up my mind to say nothing about "my problem" until they brought it up. They had hoped, I think, that I would bring it up, but at length, as it was getting on for 11 p.m., the senior man--neither ever gave me any name to call him by--said that it was still necessary to decide what to do about "my problem"; that the police were still holding the "other man" and wished to try him; and that he would have to be able to offer some quid pro quo to the police in order to keep my name out of the case. He then produced a letter, which he said came from some man to whom I had made overtures "in broken Russian" in a restaurant in Kemerovo. I replied that this was clearly nonsense, since I did not know enough broken Russian to order my breakfast, but that I could not see how that altered matters. He then said that "it did not matter how I wrote, that in fact you and your brother do not write nearly so badly about the Soviet Union as many other people, and in any case you must carry on your career", but that he would like to be able to talk to me from time to time in "order to get advice that would assist the cause

of peace". After a show of reluctance, I carried out my plan, pretending to agree to his proposal in principle. There was some further discussion (in the course of which he asked me how much money I made from writing) and he then suggested that we meet again "one last time, so that I can ask you some final questions" in Leningrad on Friday. He added--I could hardly help smiling---that he "only wanted to help me", and that he would like to prove this by opening the closed doors of the special collections at the Hermitage, before we dined together and got down to business.

I had then to make my final decision as to the course to follow thereafter. I was still foolishly determined not to burden Ambassador Bohlen with the consequences of my folly; but it was increasingly clear to me that I could not meet these men again without safeguarding myself in some manner or other. On the one hand, if I disappeared, as was clearly possible, I wanted my family and friends to know what had happened, and to know above all that I had never had any intention of yielding to these men's requests. On the other hand, if worst came to worst, I also wanted to be able to say to them that all the facts were already available to the American authorities, and that they had better consider the consequences to themselves if they proceeded to extreme measures. Finally, I saw now what I should have seen at the very outset--that having anything to do with these men placed me in a false position, to put it very mildly, unless I took measures in advance which would automatically render me entirely useless for their purposes. In the end, therefore, I adopted the expedient of preparing a full account of everything that had happened, and passing it to a friend whom I thought reliable in a sealed envelope, with a request that he give the envelope to the American embassy if there was the slightest sign I had got lost or was in trouble. I added the instruction that he was to read the contents of the envelope in two weeks time. By then, as I explained in the document in the envelope, I hoped to have reached Paris and made my clean breast to the world.

of the two recruiting agents in the Astoria Hotel lobby. And when I presented myself at the Intourist Service Bureau, the girl there who was handling my affairs said there had been a mistake, and that my ticket on the plane had been issued when there was no space for me. I returned to my room to telephone Mr. Davis again; there was a knock, and the younger of the two recruiting agents appeared. I showed him the telegram from the Minister, said I feared very bad family news, and explained that I must return at once to Moscow. In a sharp tone, I added that "someone had done something to cancel my air ticket." I said further that I hated to inconvenience them, would have to go back to Moscow by train if no plane was available, and would meet them there for as long as they chose. After a short delay, when he left the room to confer with his chief, he returned to say that my air ticket would be all right after all--he had looked into the matter to help me. So with many assurances of looking forward to a long talk very soon, I parted from them and took the Moscow plans. The rest of the story is known to the American Minister, whose kindness and wise advice have placed me in his debt to an extent that can never be repaid.

Handwritten notation: Original signed by the subject of the cover memorandum.

b1, b3

This friend, whom I shall name, [redacted] (S)

and the document in his possession seemed me to solve the three problems set forth in the preceding paragraph. If I had not chanced to run across him, I think I should have paid a final call on Ambassador Bohlen and confided the document to him. But I did not, merely telephoning to say good-bye before taking the night train to Leningrad. The next day in Leningrad was reasonably nightmarish. I had hoped to keep my mind off what lay ahead by forgetting everything else but the pictures at the Hermitage; but the Hermitage was closed, and after three hours sightseeing with a birdlike female interpreter guide, Zenaida Alexandrovna, I had nothing left to do. I passed the afternoon, therefore, writing a fake column which would, I hoped, prevent my new friends from questioning me too closely about who had told me what concerning the current campaign here against dissident students and intellectuals. (The column stated that I had been unable to confirm any incidents of the campaign, and mainly knew of its existence from the government press.) At 5 p.m., the maid appeared with a telegram from the American Minister, saying that a personal message of great urgency had reached the Embassy, that the Ambassador had seen it before leaving for the US, and that the Ambassador insisted I must return to Moscow to receive this message. I thereupon telephoned the Minister, saying on the telephone that I supposed the message had to do with my mother's poor health, and that I would return immediately. I had of course divined that the friend to whom I had confided the sealed envelope, instead of following my instructions, had brought the Ambassador into the business. And I cannot describe the sudden wave of relief that came over me, when I felt that now I was no longer carrying the burden alone.

After telephoning Mr. Davis I went at once to the Intourist ticket bureau, and after an agonizing delay caused by a busy telephone, I got a place on the 8 p.m. plane to Moscow. I then packed. When I went downstairs, however, to order my bags brought down, I caught sight

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Washington 25, D. C.

Office of the Director

April 5, 1957

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Subject: JOSEPH ALSOP

Referring further to my letters of 27 March and 1 April 1957  
in the above matter, I enclose herewith a preliminary report of an  
Subject conducted on or about 3 April 1957, [redacted]

[redacted] Subject was  
anxious to know whether recipients of the information about this  
incident recommend his open confession and professes willingness  
to do so if you, or we, so recommend. *ALL CIA Classified Documents  
to be declassified by 11/1/94*

Given the circumstances set forth in the attached report, I  
have asked [redacted] to return to Washington in order  
that a full report of the interview may be made as soon as possible.

There are several points in the enclosed memorandum and  
also inconsistencies, which will require further study when we have  
available the full report; in particular Subject's announced  
intention to visit the satellites and the USSR.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Allen W. Dulles

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Encl.

C O P Y

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

## Section 552

## Section 552a

☒ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☒ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)

National Security Act  
of 1947 and the CIA  
Act of 1949.

☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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FBI/DOJ





~~TOP SECRET~~  
~~EYES ONLY~~  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

April 16, 1957

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover

Subject: *Joseph Alsop*

Concerning my letter of 5 April, I am submitting herewith a copy of the report [redacted] following his interview with Subject on 3 April.

It should be noted that in this report the matter of Subject's future travel into Soviet controlled areas seems less definite than it did in the earlier [redacted] summary of the interview. However, it is also apparent that in Subject's present state of mind, his actions cannot be safely predicted. Subject's proposed travel plans have been brought to the attention of the State Department at a high level.

I wish to acknowledge your report on Subject dated 29 March 1957 and your letters of 5 April and 9 April. In the latter communication you state that you do not feel that your Bureau is in a position to make any recommendations concerning Subject's future conduct or plans, nor has the responsibility of furnishing guidance concerning his future. This position is identical with my own views in the matter insofar as pertains to CIA, except that I view with apprehension any possible plans of Subject to travel behind the Iron Curtain under the special circumstances of this case. It is my intent so to inform Subject, and I wish to know whether you would desire that we also inform him of your views because of his specific requests in this regard.

Having reviewed the attached report, I am not at all satisfied with Subject's evaluation of his own situation or his refusal to co-operate more fully in the interview. Judging by this document, it seems apparent that at this time Subject is not disposed to contribute any further information regarding his contacts or activities.

~~TOP SECRET~~

Mr. Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Administration Building, Room 123  
2430 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

April 9, 1957

VIA LIAISON

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Reference is made to your letter dated April 5, 1957, enclosing a preliminary report [redacted] of Joseph Alsop conducted on or about April 3, 1957.

I have read the report with interest and I will appreciate receiving any additional information developed by your Agency, particularly any data relating to Alsop's plans to travel to Russia and the satellite countries.

You indicated that Alsop was anxious to know whether the recipients of the information concerning the incident in Moscow recommend his open confession. You further advised that Alsop professed a willingness to make an open confession if your Agency or this Bureau so recommend. I do not feel that this Bureau is in a position to make any recommendations concerning Alsop's future conduct or plans. Furthermore, I do not feel that this Bureau has the responsibility of furnishing Alsop any guidance concerning his future.

Sincerely yours,

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SJP:bal  
(5)

NOTE: This letter classified "Top Secret" inasmuch as referenced CIA letter 4-5-57 was so classified. Cover memo Roach to Belmont 4-9-57 by SJP:bal, captioned "Joseph Alsop, IS - R."

~~TOP SECRET~~

COPY  
O+C 26. Doc 11

DECLASSIFIED BY AUC 39672 SAH/200  
ON 4/2/99  
Re: J. Edgar Hoover

~~TOP SECRET~~  
~~EYES ONLY~~

- 2 -

I am looking forward to receiving any comments or observations which you may have to make on the enclosed report. Meanwhile I propose to follow Subject's movements abroad to the extent feasible.

Sincerely,

*Allen W. Dulles*  
Allen W. Dulles  
Director.

Attachment

OC 26, Doc 14 (page 2)

~~TOP SECRET~~

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
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Section 552

Section 552a

☒ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☐ (j)(2)

☒ (b)(3)

☐ (b)(7)(C)

☐ (k)(1)

National Security Act  
of 1947 and the CIA  
Act of 1949.

☐ (b)(7)(D)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (k)(3)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (b)(5)

☐ (b)(9)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (b)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Belmont  
FROM : R. R. Roach  
SUBJECT: JOSEPH ALSOP  
IS - R

DATE: 4/26/57

6/5/99  
CLASSIFIED BY AUC 3967754H/bs  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Reference is made to my memorandum dated 4/19/57.

Information received by the Bureau indicated that Alsop prepared a report concerning his involvement with the Soviets in February, 1957.

Although CIA gave the Bureau a copy of a nine page document allegedly prepared by Alsop, the Bureau never did receive a copy of the report which was transmitted to the American Embassy. Liaison was instructed to determine if CIA had this report and, if so, to obtain a copy. Enclosed herewith are two thermofax copies of a document which include (1) a message which Alsop passed (2) a report which Alsop desired that transmit to the American Embassy, Moscow. These documents were furnished to the Liaison Agent on 4/25/57 by James Angleton of CIA. Inasmuch as the thermofax copies are somewhat illegible, Liaison has prepared typewritten copies which are enclosed herewith.

Angleton admitted that Alsop's message to which is marked "A" in the enclosures was given to by Alsop in the subject's hotel room. Alsop felt that the Russians may have had a technical surveillance on his room so the subject wanted to convey his message to in writing. The report marked "B" in enclosures was prepared by Alsop.

A review of the documents reflects that Alsop has not added anything significant to the report already in possession of the Bureau. The enclosures reflect that he admits being a homosexual; that he was framed by the Russians who even had photographs to support the compromise and that the subject was contemplating suicide. It is further indicated that during the period Alsop became involved with the Soviets he was in the process of arranging an interview with Khrushchev.

Angleton stated that the original of the enclosed report marked "B" carried Alsop's notation "All my love and apologies to you all and especially to ma."

Enclosures - sent 4-30-57  
SJP:dam

COPY

O+C 26, Doc 16

April 19, 1957

VIA LIAISON

DECLASSIFIED BY AUC 3967754H/bs  
ON 6/5/99

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/5/99 BY AUC 3967754H/bs

Mr. Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Administration Building, Room 123  
2430 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Reference is made to your letter dated April 16, 1957, enclosing a copy of the report of Joseph Alsop on April 3, 1957.

While this matter is not within the province of FBI operations, bearing in mind that Alsop is outside of the United States, I do share your concern regarding Alsop's possible travel to Iron Curtain areas where he could be subjected to blackmail approaches. I am also concerned regarding Alsop's apparent reluctance to be cooperative in that he has refused to furnish the identities of his homosexual contacts in the United States, particularly in Washington, D. C., and New York City.

I will appreciate receiving any additional information which you may develop concerning contacts between Alsop and representatives or agents of Russia and satellite countries, as well as any information which may be developed concerning his homosexual contacts in this country, particularly any which may be in Government circles.

Sincerely yours,

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SJP:bal  
(5)

NOTE: Cover memo Roach to Belmont 4-18-57 SJP:bal  
re: JOSEPH ALSOP

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O+C 26, Doc 15

"A"

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
re: Joseph Alsop

## ACTION:

Enclosed herewith is a letter to the Attorney General, copy to Mr. Rogers, enclosing copies of the documents which were furnished to us by Angleton. The contents of these copies are in typewritten form inasmuch as thermofaxed documents are somewhat illegible.

I HAVE GOT MYSELF INTO VERY BAD TROUBLE. EYE THINK EYE CAN GET OUT AGAIN BUT AM NOT SURE. SO THAT FRIENDS WILL KNOW THE REAL STORY IF ANYTHING SERIOUS HAPPENS, WILL YOU GIVE THIS TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT THE END OF TWO WEEKS QUERY IF YOU RECEIVE AYE PRIOR TELEGRAM FROM PARIS SAYING "HOPINO SEE VIOLET THANKS LETTER" PLEASE BURN THIS. YOU WILL KNOW THE WHOLE STORY EITHER THEN OR VERY SHORTLY. FORGIVE ME FOR BURDENING YOU WITH MY TROUBLES. LETTER SHOULD GO IN SAFE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. INDICATE ASSENT BY NODDING HEAD

OR READ INSTEAD OF BURNING IF YOU CHOOSE. BUT I WANT NO ROW NOW BECAUSE I THINK I CAN CARRY THROUGH SUCCESSFULLY THIS IS WHY I GIVE THIS TO YOU INSTEAD OF OUR PEOPLE

DECLASSIFIED BY AHC 39677 SAN/DA  
ON 6/6/99 per agency ltr 5/24/99

- 2 -

COPY

TOP SECRET

COPY

COPY

brown faced and spectacled. It was in a private room at the Praga restaurant. Eye pretended to be nearer to complying with their request. Aye third meeting was set for Friday in Leningrad "for aye few more questions and arrangements, after which you will be free to go where you wish."

Eye write this for two reasons. First, eye want what they have done to be known. The fact that it was aye frameup is clearly proven by the date---the day before Khrushchev received me. Second eye want it to be known that eye have no intention whatever of giving in to them, no matter what the consequences. If they ask me questions, eye cannot properly answer, eye shall try to play them along, and then take my sleeping pills that night. In any case, since confiding this letter to will compromise me for the future, it should be proof enough of my intention to confess when eye escape, as aye still think eye shall.

Eye shant ask you to forgive me for such unforgiveable folly. But eye hops at least you will think eye have not been wanting in courage.

~~TOP SECRET~~

COPY

COPY

"B"

DECLASSIFIED BY 44C39677504  
ON 6/19/99 per agency declass

PRESS  
VIA ANY ROUTE  
TRIBUNE NEW YORK

MOSCOW: I am writing this to look like a press telegram because of the people who pop in and out of my room, but it is in fact aye message to my brother.

In brief eye have been an incurable homosexual from boyhood. Doctor Adolf Mayer at Johns Hopkins so certified when eye consulted him twenty years ago. It has not troubled me especially--it does not trouble most homosexuals--except in one respect. Eye have always hated the concealment eye practiced with my family and friends. The time for that has now come to an end, however, because of my extreme folly.

In brief, eye have allowed myself to be framed by the local secret police. It was aye quite remarkable frameup, complete with wonderfully faked photographs and even aye letter. But the frills were needless. The frameup was fully effective without them.

Immediately after the frameup took place, members of the "other service" as they described themselves appeared with marvellous promptitude. In very short order, they sought to recruit me as aye spy. The first long meeting occurred at the scene of the frameup, in room 219 in the Grand Hotel. They were suavity itself, saying they only wished to avoid trouble, promote peace, etc etc. As eye intended to kill myself that night, eye played them along until they let me go off to dine with the Bohlene. They were the first, incidentally, to tell me that eye would see Khrushchev the next morning and to give me the hour of the appointment.

As you can imagine, eye pondered the problem with rather desperate care. In the end, eye concluded that suicide was aye cowardly way out and that eye could let them think they had recruited me and then make aye full and public confession when allowed to leave the country--thus avoiding the Lublyanka which is not unimportant and also turning their game against them. Last night eye met with them again--eye do not give their names because they have not given me them; one is aye youngish fattish blonde man who serves as interpreter and the other, very clever, is stout,

~~TOP SECRET~~

COPY

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: May 8, 1957

FROM : MR. R. R. ROACH

SUBJECT: JOSEPH ALSOP  
INTERNAL SECURITY - RTolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Reference is made to my memorandum dated May 4, 1957, describing a proposed draft of a message which Allen Dulles of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) planned to send to the subject. The proposed message indicated that officials of the Government familiar with his situation were not making any recommendations or furnishing any guidance to the subject and, furthermore, that such officials were not in favor of the subject's return to Iron Curtain areas. As indicated in the referenced memorandum Dulles was seeking the Bureau's comments and observations concerning the proposed message.

Pursuant to instructions, Agent Papich advised Allen Dulles on May 7, 1957, that the Bureau did not desire to participate or get involved in any way whatsoever in the preparation of any communication which might be directed to Alsop. The Liaison Agent further advised Dulles that the Bureau saw no necessity in communicating the Bureau's position in this matter to the subject.

Dulles advised that he recognized the Bureau's position and the proposed draft would be changed inasmuch as it could be inferred that the Bureau was communicating with Alsop. Dulles advised that he would be discussing this matter with [redacted] of the State Department and that he would make certain that the language used in any message would not, in any way, involve the FBI. He further stated that he would make available to the Liaison Agent the contents of the message which will be sent to Alsop.

Dulles furnished the Liaison Agent the attached copy of the message which originally had been considered. He stated that the Bureau might desire to keep this draft for possible future reference.

## ACTION:

None. For your information.

SJP:bjt (5)  
Enclosure

COPY

(handwritten note) Rec. from A. Dulles 5/7/57 SJP

Please pass following message to \_\_\_\_\_

You have asked for advice as to whether you should make a public statement of the facts and background of the events affecting you which occurred during your visit to the USSR last February. The persons to whom you addressed this inquiry feel that it is not appropriate to make recommendations or to furnish guidance in this personal matter.

With regard to the comment you made orally that you might later visit the Satellite or even the USSR, I wish to point out that it is the unanimous opinion of those few officials of government who are aware of the facts referred to above, that such travel would be fraught with real risks and might pose serious questions for those whom you have informed.

C26, Doc 19  
(page 1)

O+C 26, Doc 19 (page 2)

COPY



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 29, 1957

JOSEPH WRIGHT ALSOP, JR.  
STEWART ALSOP

CLASSIFIED BY 155/DR/CH  
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR  
C/A # 87-368 (up to 10/26/06)

BACKGROUND

Joseph Wright Alsop, Jr. - 5

Joseph Wright Alsop, Jr., was born at Avon, Connecticut, on October 11, 1910. He attended Groton School at Groton, Massachusetts, from 1929 to 1928 and later entered Harvard University, receiving his A.B. degree in 1932. Joseph Alsop is unmarried.

Although nothing derogatory was developed during the course of an applicant-type investigation for the Office for Emergency Management in 1943, it was determined that both Joseph and his brother, Stewart, are cousins of Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Joseph Alsop has been described by editors of the "Saturday Evening Post" as an individual who, when in his early thirties, had seen more of life and more of the world than his fellow Groton and Harvard graduates usually see in generations. He was described as scornfully rejecting the more conventional careers to take up journalism. (77-26619-6, 7; "Saturday Evening Post," January 2, 1949)

The afore-mentioned investigation revealed that Alsop joined the "New York Herald Tribune" as a cub reporter upon leaving Harvard, a position which was secured for him through family ties and influential friends.

In the years immediately preceding World War II, Joseph Alsop and Robert Kintner wrote a Washington news column entitled "The Capital Parade," which was syndicated in about ninety newspapers. In 1933, Joseph Alsop and Kintner wrote a book entitled "Men Around the President," which book purports to be an inside story of the growth of the brain trust in the New Deal. (Bureau Library, E-506-A462)

A glorified pamphlet entitled "American White Paper," also written by Joseph Alsop and Kintner, purported to give an inside story of our foreign policies prior to our entry into the war. (94-4-2183; "The New York Times," 5/3/40)

EL:bjt.  
(12)

ENCLOSURE

Cover memo same caption, same date  
Mr. Belmont to Mr. Boardman

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: October 23, 1958

FROM : Mr. R. R. Roach

SUBJECT: JOSEPH ALSOP

Tolson  
Boardman  
Belmont  
Mohr  
Nease  
Parsons  
Rosen  
Tamm  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Gandy

On October 21, 1958, James Angleton, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), advised that he had received information indicating that Alsop will be featured in a special article in either "Time" or "Life" magazine, possibly this week. According to Angleton, Alsop has been interviewed at great length by personnel of one of the mentioned publications.

ACTION:

None. For your information, there is attached hereto a summary regarding Joseph Wright Alsop, Jr., dated 3/29/57.

SJP:bjt.  
(3)

- 1 - Mr. Nease
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Liaison Section
- 1 - Mr. Papich

Bring summary  
up to date

10727

①

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JOSEPH WRIGHT ALSOP, JR.  
STEWART ALSOP

INVESTIGATION OF UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION  
OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Joseph and Stewart Alsop publish a syndicated column entitled "Matter of Fact," which appears in the "Washington Post and Times Herald" and other newspapers. Since 1950, the FBI, at the request of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the Department of Justice, has conducted seven investigations involving the Alsops on the basis of unauthorized classified information appearing in their column. Briefly these instances are as follows. (100-354477-136)

On October 13, 1950, their article entitled "The Kremlin's Growing Stockpile" contained information allegedly taken from classified annual reports of the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Commission dated January 1, 1950, and July 4, 1950. (100-354477)

On December 23, 1950, the Alsops' column referred to a top secret document of the National Security Council (NSC), commonly identified as NSC-68. This document contained data regarding Soviet atomic production figures. (100-354477)

Their column of December 31, 1950, entitled "How Red A-Blast Was Detected" allegedly contained classified information from various Government documents. (100-354477)

The Alsops' column on May 5, 1952, published information classified as restricted data by the AEC, pertaining to the approximate date that a hydrogen bomb would be exploded as well as data concerning the power of this bomb. (65-61000)

On June 12, 1952, they published another article containing information classified as restricted data by the AEC, pertaining to the explosion of a hydrogen bomb. (65-61000)

Stewart Alsop contacted the AEC on June 4, 1953, and requested clearance for the publication of an article pertaining to a film depicting the 1952 Eniwetok thermonuclear test, which was classified top secret. Clearance was refused until Alsop agreed to delete certain portions of this article. (65-61000-134)

Joseph Alsop, in a column published September 13, 1953, entitled "The Killian Report," referred to a top secret study pertaining to this country's defense potentialities. However, our investigation determined that this column did not contain any classified information. (65-63629)

- 5 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JOSEPH WRIGHT ALSOP, JR.  
STEWART ALSOP

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

trip to South America which he believed was caused by their alleged homosexual activities. He denied telling the confidential source that anyone had seen one of the Alsops and Vandenberg in bed together and denied knowing, having talked to, or in any way using [redacted] as an informant. (Confidential source was [redacted] member of MPD was [redacted] MPD: 100-354477-177, 178)

RECENT CONTACT WITH SOVIETS (a) u

On December 26, 1956, a confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that [redacted] Washington, D. C., was to visit Joseph Alsop at his home on December 27, 1956. The source previously furnished information during November and December, 1956, that Joseph Alsop was in contact with [redacted] concerning a proposed trip to the Soviet Union. According to the proposals, Joseph Alsop planned to enter the Soviet Union on January 3, or 4, 1957, from Helsinki, Finland, for a stay of approximately six weeks, and then depart the Soviet Union via a southern route through Tashkent and Kabul (Afghanistan), enabling Alsop to arrive in the Middle East around the month of March, 1957. [redacted] (105-19817-183) 65-61000-129

According to other confidential sources, who have furnished reliable information in the past, Joseph Alsop, during December, 1956, also attempted to arrange travel to Hungary, Iran, Egypt, and Algeria. [redacted] 65-63629-11; [redacted]

On June 9, 1953, a confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that Stewart Alsop and Konstantin Fedoseev, First Secretary and head of the Press Division, Soviet Embassy, planned a luncheon engagement for the following day. On June 15, 1953, there appeared in the "Washington Post" a column written by Joseph and Stewart Alsop entitled "A Soviet Official Who Came to Lunch," concerning Stewart Alsop's luncheon with Fedoseev. According to Alsop, Fedoseev asked "Who, after all, started the Cold War?" According to Alsop's column, he answered "You did when you supplied the Greek communist guerrillas." Also according to Alsop's column, Fedoseev stated that the Soviet policy is a policy of peace and that there is no reason for a war between the two countries. [redacted] 105-15976-94 (a) u

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JOSEPH WRIGHT ALSOP, JR.  
STEWART ALSOP

Our investigation into the above-mentioned matters failed to identify in each instance the Alsops' source of information. It was determined that the classified information published by them had been given wide-spread dissemination throughout the Government, in some cases to thousands of individuals in several departments and agencies. As a result, our investigations were not productive. In each case, the Department of Justice advised that further investigation was not warranted. In connection with these investigations, the Alsops were interviewed on February 15, 1951. They refused to reveal their sources and said that they had not seen nor had access to any confidential papers which enabled them to write the articles. They declined to comment as to whether they had been furnished the necessary data by any United States official. On March 15, 1951, Stewart Alsop was reinterviewed and again declined to reveal his sources of information. (100-354477-196) PCY

#### MISCELLANEOUS

According to the report of hearings before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee concerning the Institute of Pacific Relations, on October 17, 1951, former Vice President Henry A. Wallace testified before the Subcommittee. With reference to a trip to China in early 1944, Wallace testified that Joseph Alsop had been designated by General Claire Chennault to accompany him and John Garver Vincent, State Department. On October 18, 1951, Joseph Alsop appeared before the Subcommittee and attacked testimony previously given by Louis Budenz, self-admitted former Communist Party (CP) member, to the effect that the Wallace mission to China carried out a communist objective; that Vincent guided Wallace toward a communist objective; and that Vincent was a member of the CP at the time of the trip to China. Alsop stated that in Budenz's testimony concerning Wallace and Vincent, he, Budenz, was guilty of gross distortion and deception. (62-88217-577)

On April 9, 1954, information was received that Herbert Marks, Washington, D. C., attorney representing Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, atomic scientist whose security clearance was then under consideration, had been contacted by Stewart Alsop. Stewart indicated that he and his brother, Joseph Alsop, were anxious to cooperate in this new release favorable to Dr. Oppenheimer. Reportedly, on April 9, 1954, Dr. Oppenheimer discussed the problem of a press release with Joseph Alsop who had agreed that he would write nothing over the objection of Dr. Oppenheimer. (100-17628-1058)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JOSEPH WRIGHT ALSOP, JR.  
STEWART ALSOP

On July 16, 1954, Joseph Alsop was an overnight guest at the Oppenheimer residence at Princeton, New Jersey. (100-17628-1899)

The "Washington City News Service" of December 29, 1954, stated that columnists Joseph and Stewart Alsop had charged that the AEC "dishonored and disgraced the high name of American freedom," by denying security clearance to Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer. The Alsop brothers made this charge in their book entitled "We Accuse!" Furthermore, according to the news item, the Alsops charged that the U. S. "insecurity system is inherently repugnant in its present standards and procedures to every high tradition of the American past." (100-17628-A)

A "Petition to Uphold Justice," criticizing the use of "paid informers" in U. S. courts and specifically condemning former Bureau informants Paul Grough and Louis Budenz, was circulated during January, 1955. The petition carried the following statements made by Joseph and Stewart Alsop in the "New York Herald Tribune" of July 4, 1954:

"....Those of the informers and witnesses who mainly live by this new trade or importantly supplement their incomes by it, have a clear financial interest in being used as much as possible....That happens when they have told all they genuinely know, but still want to maintain their incomes from the Justice Department." (100-416825-1)

On his broadcast of September 5, 1954, Walter Winchell said that Joseph Alsop had refused to reveal sources of information before a Senate committee in secret session and had been fully sustained by Senator Mundt. (62-31615-672)

The "Washington City News Service" of February 22, 1955, carried an item regarding testimony given that day before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee by Harvey Matusow, who testified for the Government in a number of cases involving members of the CP and who subsequently publicly recanted his testimony and wrote a book entitled "False Witness." During his testimony, Matusow was questioned about telephone calls made by him from his New York apartment during the previous spring. According to the article, Matusow stated he had called

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JOSEPH WRIGHT ALSOP, JR.  
STEWART ALSOP

three persons in Washington, D. C., including columnist Joseph Alsop. Matusow also testified that Albert E. Kahn, partner in the publishing firm handling his book, had mailed a mimeographed copy of the book to columnist Stewart Alsop. Matusow said this was not his idea and he did not know who suggested it. (100-375388-628)

A report published May 9, 1955, by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee concerning "Strategy and Tactics of World Communism-The Significance of the Matusow Case," reflected an item published in the "Daily Worker," March 11, 1955. This item, entitled "Big Lies, Little Lies, and the Case of Henry Matusow," stated that the most outspoken criticism of the Justice Department in the Matusow case comes from Stewart Alsop, who himself did much to expose the "informer system." (100-375388-2230 - Pages 1253, 1254)

April 17, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BOARDMAN  
MR. BELMONT

Today following a conference in Governor Adams' office at the White House, I remained behind and told Governor Adams briefly of the developments in the Joseph Alsop case. He had not previously been advised of this situation, and I told him that as I understood it, the information had been held quite closely and that I knew that the Secretary of State and the Under Secretary of State had been advised of this by Mr. Allen Dulles, the Director of CIA, and that I, in turn, had advised the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General about it. I stated that I thought it was desirable for the White House to be informed of the Alsop case in view of the implications involved in the same. Governor Adams expressed his appreciation for being so advised.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

JEH:TLC  
(6)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5:40 PM

April 17, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BOARDMAN  
MR. BELMONT  
MR. NICHOLS

During the course of my conversation with Deputy Attorney General Rogers on another matter I advised him that after the conference with Governor Sherman Adams today I asked to see the Governor alone and then advised him of the Joseph Alsop matter. I stated the Governor had not heard of this and he was advised that only the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General in the Department were aware of this matter. I told Mr. Rogers that I had told Governor Adams I felt he, Adams, should be advised of this as one of the employees in the White House who was involved in homosexual acts admitted he had seen a report in the Executive Offices referring to Anthony Eden being in the same category. I stated in the Alsop matter, both the Alsop brothers were intimately acquainted with Eden, though there was no indication of impropriety. In view of this I told Mr. Rogers I felt the Governor should be aware of the Alsop matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc-Mr. Holloman

JEH:ER (7)

O+C 26, Doc 13

P. 7.  
P. 7.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 2, 1957

DIRECTOR, FBI

JOSEPH ALSOP  
INTERNAL SECURITY- R

DECLASSIFIED BY AUC 39677 SAH/RS  
ON 6/6/89 per 3/20/99

Reference is made to my memoranda transmitted to you concerning the subject's activities in Moscow, Russia, in February, 1957. I have carefully reviewed the material which has been disseminated to me by the Central Intelligence Agency relating to Alsop's admission of homosexuality and his involvement with the Soviets, and at this time I do not feel there is a basis for initiating an investigation within FBI jurisdiction. Alsop continues to be outside of the U. S. and, therefore, the coverage of his current activities is not within the province of Bureau operations. I have asked the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency to keep me advised of the receipt of any information indicating that the subject has had any additional contacts with the Soviets.

The above is being submitted for your information

1 - Mr. William P. Rogers  
Deputy Attorney General

SJP: jll  
(8) mad

NOTE: Reference is made to memorandum dated April 29, 1957, from Mr. Roach to Mr. Belmont. Liaison was instructed to send a letter to the Attorney General advising that the Bureau was not initiating an investigation of subject at this time. Letter is being classified top secret inasmuch as CIA has given all of its material this classification.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COPY

O+C 26, Doc 17

TOP SECRET

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: October 28, 1958

FROM : G. H. Scatterday

AND INFORMATION DIVISION  
 BOARDMAN  
 BELMONT  
 MOHR  
 NEASE  
 ROSEN  
 TAMM  
 TROTTER  
 CLOYON  
 TELE. ROOM  
 HOLLOMAN  
 GANDY

SUBJECT: JOSEPH ALSOP  
WRIGHT

(SUMMARY OF FACTS TITLED)

Pursuant to Mr. Tolson's request, 10-27-58, Bufiles have been reviewed to bring the summary dated March 29, 1957, up to date concerning Alsop.

On March 27, 1957, Mr. Allen Dulles, Director, CIA, advised the Director of Information received from their [redacted] which indicated that Joseph Alsop had admitted being a congenital homosexual.

Mr. Dulles stated that Alsop also admitted that during a recent visit to the Soviet Union he was exposed to pointed homosexual overtures and committed the incredible folly of walking into a trap. It was indicated that the trap was carefully prepared and a professional KGB (Russian intelligence) frame up, and that after the trap was sprung Alsop was subject to long political conversations largely based on his writings. According to Alsop, no pointed questions were asked which were of a classified nature, but he apparently feared that this was merely a warm up exercise. Alsop prepared a long, detailed account of what had transpired, passed it to [redacted].

In Mr. Dulles' first communication to the Director it was indicated that Alsop had been allowed to leave Russia and was then (approximately March 17, 1957) en route to Paris and London.

Considerable personal discussions regarding this incident took place between the Director and Mr. Dulles, the Director and the Attorney General, and the Director and Governor Sherman Adams of the White House. Subsequent thereto further information furnished by CIA was promptly given to the Attorney General.

Subsequently Bureau learned through CIA that one [redacted]

[redacted] ascribed Alsop as being under "heavy emotional strain." Alsop admitted that he had engaged in homosexual activities with several Government clerks while in Washington, D. C.,

- 1 - Belmont
- 1 - Name Check Section
- 1 - Brown

GWB/nmm

(4)

6/16/89  
 CLASSIFIED BY AUC 396775AM/ps  
 DECLASSIFY ON: 25X  
 per agency ltr 8/15/99  
 23-INTD 2, 4 and 99-24-INTD 2

May 10, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
 MR. BOARDMAN  
 MR. BELMONT  
 MR. NICHOLS

On May 9, 1957, I had an extended conference with the Attorney General in his office at which various matters were gone over by the Attorney General and myself pertaining to Departmental and Bureau operations.

I likewise briefed the Attorney General upon the Joseph Alsop matter and told him that the Bureau had not made and did not intend to make any investigation relative to Alsop's connections in the United States, at least until he, Alsop, returned to the United States. I also advised the Attorney General that I had declined to allow CIA to send a letter to Joseph Alsop giving him some advice as to his travels in Russia and the Iron Curtain countries in view of the fact that I did not consider it within the purview of this Bureau to furnish any such advice to Joseph Alsop, who has been compromised because of certain homosexual activity while recently visiting Russia. The Attorney General approved the position which I took.

(complete memo filed in "Attorneys General-Conferences")

O+C 26, Doc 18

Memorandum Scatterday to Belmont  
Re: Joseph Alsop

but emphasized that most of his homosexual activities had taken place in New York City. He emphatically refused to identify any of these individuals. He admitted knowing Guy Burgess, former British diplomat, and that he and Burgess, while both were in Washington, D. C., had the same boy friend.

b1, b3  
A copy of Alsop's original statement was furnished to the Bureau by CIA and in substance pointed out how he was approached by Russians and subsequently compromised in an embarrassing position. CIA also furnished a copy of the report containing the results of the interview. This report, although in much greater detail, in substance contained no additional information over and above that originally furnished in the Alsop statement.

Although Mr. Dulles has on several occasions asked the Director for comments and observations concerning advice to be given to Alsop in connection with his possible travels throughout Europe and Iron Curtain countries, the Bureau has not furnished any advice or comments. The Director personally advised the Attorney General of this and the Attorney General was in complete accord.

In a memorandum dated March 11, 1958, from Mr. Roach to Mr. Belmont, Liaison Agent Pepich advised that James Angleton of Central Intelligence Agency advised that Frank Wianer, Deputy Director, CIA, met with Alsop during the previous weekend. Alsop repeated his story of his homosexual activity and the attempt by the Russians to blackmail him in February, 1957. He indicated that the Russians have not approached him since the original incident. Alsop advised at this time that he was continuing to write the column, "Matter of Fact" and that Stewart Alsop, his brother, was to join the staff of the "Saturday Evening Post." In response to Mr. Angleton's inquiry as to whether we desired to interview Alsop, Liaison Agent indicated, with the Director's approval, that we do not plan to interview Alsop, however, if he had any information to disclose, he is welcome to come to the Bureau and we would listen to his story. (100-354477-8,9)

ACTION:

None. This is for Mr. Tolson's information.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



9:35 A.M.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

April 14, 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR PERSONAL FILES

*Joseph St.ought Alsop, Jr.*  
The Attorney General called to advise that he had been talking to Secretary of Defense, Neil H. McElroy, and he was amazed to learn that McElroy did not know about the Joseph Alsop incident in Russia wherein Alsop admitted to certain acts of homosexuality. The Attorney General then stated he was going to New York today and would be back Thursday morning and he thought he should get together what we have on Alsop as he believed very few people knew of this and he was not sure that the President was aware of it. He then inquired if Alsop had signed the statement and when he was advised in the affirmative he indicated that he would like to have a copy of this statement. I told him that this would be done and I would also check on the dissemination of this information; that I did recall that we had sent a memorandum to Sherman Adams at the time but I did not know whether Adams had brought it to the attention of the President or whether General Percons knew of it or the people socially active in the White House. I also indicated that I would have a memorandum prepared of the information in our files concerning the incident in Russia involving Joseph Alsop.

The Attorney General then commented that he was going to see that certain individuals were aware of Alsop's propensities, namely, The President, Secretary of Defense McElroy, Under Secretary of State Herter, General Percons and Secretary to the Cabinet Gray, who, he felt should be advised, but he would not take the responsibility for such information going any further.

J. E. H.  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

JEH:EH (1)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : W. C. Sullivan

FROM : R. O. L'Allier

SUBJECT: JOSEPH ALSOP

DATE: October 13, 1961

CLASSIFIED BY 1678RFP/4

DECLASSIFY ON: OADR 4/3/87

CLASS. &amp; EXT. BY 1678RFP/4

REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW 9-10-87

☐ Mr. Tolson  
☐ Mr. DeLoach  
☐ Mr. Mohr  
☐ Mr. Bishop  
☐ Mr. Casper  
☐ Mr. Callahan  
☐ Mr. Conrad  
☐ Mr. Felt  
☐ Mr. Gale  
☐ Mr. Rosen  
☐ Mr. Sullivan  
☐ Mr. Tavel  
☐ Mr. Trotter  
☐ Mr. Tele. Room  
☐ Mr. Holmes  
☐ Miss Gandy

 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

11:08 AM

 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
 April 23, 1959

## MEMORANDUM FOR PERSONAL FILES

The Attorney General called to [redacted] he had given the information concerning the Joseph Alsop incident in Russia to Secretary of Defense McElroy who indicated he had not previously known of it. I stated this was amazing to me as I knew that Allen Dulles had briefed Deputy Secretary of Defense Quarles about the matter. The Attorney General then stated that General Twining has just learned of it and wondered how Alsop could be trusted, commenting that Alsop probably felt pretty secure that there would be no disclosure by this government but knew he was vulnerable to blackmail by the Russians. He stated that General Twining was wondering whether there might be an obligation to let some of the publishers know of this incident. The Attorney General then commented that he could not understand this matter being classified "top secret" as it had been, indicating that it could have been classified "confidential" but it certainly was not in the first category.

 J. E. H.  
 John Edgar Hoover  
 Director

JEH:EH (1)

O+C26, Doc 23

You will recall that in August, 1961, Bureau Informant 100 informed Agent Papich that Joseph Alsop had called on Allen Dulles concerning his "case." Alsop was referring to the Soviet attempt of a few years ago to compromise him because of his admitted homosexual. Alsop told Dulles that he planned to ask the President to take possession of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) file concerning the matter. At that time Dulles indicated to Alsop this would be highly irregular, but if such a request was made by the President, he naturally would be obligated to reply.

On October 12, 1961, Bureau Informant 100 advised Agent Papich that Attorney General Robert Kennedy contacted Allen Dulles a few days ago and requested that the CIA file concerning Alsop be turned over to the Attorney General. Dulles would not make a commitment and is in somewhat of a quandary as to how to handle the matter.

On October 12, 1961, Dulles asked the informant for his observations. The informant told Dulles that if the Attorney General was acting for the President, as he very likely was, the CIA Director had no alternative but to turn the file over to the Attorney General. The informant then emphasized to Dulles that if and when the file was surrendered, Dulles should go on record with the Attorney General as the President concerning all ramifications of the case. He suggested that Dulles point out that Alsop's involvement with the Soviets is a matter which cannot be buried. He stated that as time goes on agencies will periodically make name checks concerning Alsop and the possession of the derogatory information will be obliged to produce the facts. He further added that the British Government through its Embassy in Moscow became aware of the Moscow incident and undoubtedly has a fair good story concerning the entire situation.

Dulles also asked the informant if McCone should be briefed concerning Alsop. The informant emphatically took the position that McCone definitely should be briefed concerning all pertinent details.

The informant informed the Bureau Agent that all of this becomes more interesting in light of the fact the President had dined at Alsop's home on the night of October 10, 1961.

ACTION: 20 1961

OUT: 20 1961

IN: 20 1961

1 - Mr. Belmont

1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Liaison

1 - Mr. Papich

 DECLASSIFIED BY 1678RFP/4  
 ON 7/13/87

Folder #13

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